

Comprehensive Situation Report No. 1

Devils Lake Flood 1995

Incident No. 95-004*

Date: January 20, 1995 Time: 8:00 a.m.

TO: Governor Edward Schafer

State Capitol

Bismarck, ND

ATTENTION: Appropriate State and Local Agencies. *Incident No. 95-004 is a continuation of Incident No. 94-161 for which situation reports were issued on November 25, 1994 and January 5, 1995. Because of the technical complexity of this incident, the Division of Emergency Management and State Water Commission will jointly prepare and issue situation reports on Incident No. 95-004, Devils Lake Flood 1995.

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Potential flooding and runoff problems in the Devils Lake Basin, based on expected 1432.3 or greater mean sea level (msl) for Devils Lake.

The water level of Devils Lake is 1430.96 as of January 18, 1995. This is the highest the lake has been in 110 years. A gradual rise in the lake level has occurred throughout the winter.

2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from previous report.

3. DAMAGE: Reported damages are in addition to damages previously reported.

Benson County officials reported the elevation of the 2 miles of Grahams Island Road that goes through Devils Lake is at a level of 1,435 msl. Benson County rip-rapped the road at a cost of \$260,000. Benson and Ramsey Counties spent \$27,000 rip-rapping the Woods-Rutten Grade.

Benson County officials also reported hay land, pastures, and fences near the lake have been lost due to the rising water of Devils Lake. Area homeowners are reporting water in their basements due to seepage. The Minnewaukan Sewage Lagoon is surrounded by water, and water is now over the lagoon discharge pipe.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

Local: Ramsey County Tax Equalization Office

State: No change from the previous report.

Federal: The Americorps/Team USDA and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formally Soil Conservation Service).

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous report.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: in Situation Report Number 2, 94-161, it was reported the State Water Commission and the Devils Lake Basin Water Board have decided to leave Channel A gates open. This statement should have read: "The Channel A gates are open in accordance with the

annual operating plan."

Local: Ramsey County officials report they are currently identifying property elevations, locating and grouping homes potentially at risk, estimating property values, identifying potential transportation problems, identifying possible alternate travel and emergency routes, and estimating economic impact of the rising lake level.

Benson and Ramsey county officials have completed enrollment applications for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and are awaiting approval from NFIP officials. When approved, property owners in the two counties will be eligible to purchase flood insurance.

State: Governor Schafer has requested the St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers, provide technical assistance to support state and local efforts to protect lives and prevent damage to property. The assistance requested includes information and data regarding properties and facilities in danger, and advice on flood protection measures for the threatened properties which will be most beneficial. Corps officials have provided state officials with a report identifying some protection alternatives.

Federal: The Americorps and Natural Resources Conservation Services personnel are assisting Ramsey County officials in identifying structures that have the potential of being affected by rising lake levels.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No additional assistance is needed at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from the previous report.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The winter storm that impacted the state on January 17 dropped 3 inches of new snow on the Devils Lake Basin.

SIGNED:

Douglas C. Friez, Director
ND Division of Emergency Management

David Sprynczynatyk, Engineer
State Water Commission